Command Area Development Programme

*205. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether top irrigation officials from various States met to review the progress of the Ninth Five year Plan and chalk out strategies to accelerate the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme (CADP);

(b) if so, what were the main points of discussions;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(d) if so, to what extent States have agreed to implement the CADP projects immediately?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The discussions in the review meetings with the irrigation officials of the State Governments centered around early completion of Command Area Development (CAD) activities in the earlier projects included under the Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme during the seventies and eighties, their withdrawal from the Programme after 31st March, 2003 and continuation of only some selected projects during the remaining four years of X Plan where sizable area still remained to be covered under Command Area Development activities. Out of 236 on-going projects, the State Governments have agreed to complete marginally left over activities in 141 projects by 31st March, 2003. CAD works in the remaining projects would continue during the X Plan.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Madam, the hon. Minister, in his written reply, while referring to the review meeting with irrigation officials, has mentioned that in the 70's and 80's also, they discussed about the completion of the projects. He has fixed the completion of 41 projects by 31st March, 2003. It is amazing to note that even in the 70's and 80's the projects were not completed.

Madam, the hon. Minister has already proposed to complete 141 projects by 2003. This is wshat he is planning in the Tenth Plan. My point is whether he is going beyond the 141 on-going projects or he is happy with the 141 projects.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Madam, in my written reply, I have stated that the Command Area Development Programmes started during the 70's and 80's and the total number of projects taken up was 236. Till date, some of the projects have not yet been completed. It is a fact. The completion of the projects has taken a long time. So, the Ministry of Finance as well as the Planning Commission and my Ministry, the Ministry of Water Resources convened a meeting and of all the Secretaries of the State Governments in charge CADA scheme executions and they attended the meeting. As per the decision they have taken, out of 236 Command Area Development Programmes, 141 programmes must be completed by 31st March, 2003, or else be treated as withdrawn. Since there projects are at advance stage of completion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, that is written in your answer. Something other than is what he asked.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: No. I just want to stress the point. He asked me, how it can be completed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: He asked me, how it can be completed. So, I just highlight my point. I would like to assure him that these decisions had been taken in a meeting convened by my Ministry and all the Secretaries of the State Governments were present, who are in charge of the execution of Command Area Development Programme. The Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance have threatened them so to say, cautioned them that unless these programmes are completed on time, we will withdraw the scheme and stop funding.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the time? That is the main question.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: They have assured that out of 236 projects, 141 projects will be completed by 31st March, 2003 and, because much progress has been achieved and much of these projects been executed since long. The Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission have told that during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the rest of the projects, about 85 in number, will be completed and the new projects of only 16 in number, will be taken up during the Tenth Five Year Plan in a restructured form.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, in the Budget Session, they can put another question. Shri Kartar Singh... (*Interruptions*)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: No. I have certain questions... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. You are the second questioner. You are not the first questioner... (*Interruptions*) You are the second questioner..... (*Interruptions*) Yes, Mr. Duggal.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: It is unfair for the Chair..... (*Interruptions*) I represent one and two and I have ..... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.....(*Interruptions*) Please, sit down..... (*Interruptions*) Let others also speak in the House.

SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Madam, at the end of every Five Year Plan, an assessment is made of the targets achieved and of failures. I would like the Minister to State if such an exercise has been undertaken in respect of the Ninth Plan and, if so, what the main findings are?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: An exercise has been undertaken and I must inform the hon. Member that execution of these Command Area Development Programmes is in the hands of the State Governments. The State Governments are to execute the projects. We provide 50 per cent funds and the State Governments provide 50 per cent funds. So, execution of these projects is in the hands of the State Governments. If they do not execute the projects quickly as per the time schedule, then it will be certainly unwise on our part to pressurise them or to, say, withdraw the project. It will be unwise on our part but in every Five Year Plan, this exercise had been undertaken and as per the findings, these results have emerged and all the steps are being taken to hasten the execution of these projects. The Planning Commission has also restructured the scheme and limited the number of projects. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, only 16 new projects have been included. No more projects have been included, only 16 projects have been included.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 206..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Please allow the second question.....(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. Don't ask questions. It is all over ..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Please .... (*Interruptions*) I am saying, that is the ruling.

Stake in Sudani Oil Field

*206. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a sfact that India is in the midst of buying a 25 per cent stake in Sudani oil field;